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Summer Review: Ferment in the South

—Photo by Stephen Beasley

WAITING FOR SERVICE at a bus station lunch counter: this was a scene repeated over and over throughout the South during summer, 1961—by adult and student, Negro and white, Southerner and Northerner. Pictures here in Tallahassee are the Rev. George Leake (left), Buffalo, N. Y., and the Rev. Ralph L. Roy, New York City.

Summer is usually a time when all efforts toward social action take a holiday, in the South as in most places. People go away on vacations—or it's just too hot to bother.

Not so in the summer of 1961 in the South. It was a season of ferment and of action.

The tone was set by the Freedon Rides, which instead of waning during the summer months gained momentum. By August, almost 300 people had served jail terms in Mississippi.

There was no immediate crack in segregation in Mississippi—but other things happened. Courage and action are contagious.

All across the South the opponents of segregation were on the move. Outside of Mississippi, there were other Freedom Rides and tests of transportation segregation—some, as in Florida, locally initiated. Negroes were using integrated waiting rooms where they had never used them before, even in Alabama.

There were swim-ins at Mississippi and Florida beaches, swimming pool tests in Nashville, Tenn., picnic-ins in Tennessee and South Carolina, theater stand-ins in San Antonio, Tex., sit-ins in such out-of-the-way places as Martinsville, Va., a sleep-in in the lobby of a Richmond, Va., hotel, a march to the City Hall in demand of an anti-segregation ordinance in Louisville, Ky. — to mention just a few of the summer actions that swept the South.

There were points of major victory for the integration of public facilities—Dallas, Tex., Savannah, Ga., Oklahoma City, Okla.—all culminating months and even years of effort. (See stories on all these developments in this issue.)

The Federal Government, responding to the general ferment, was more active too. The Justice Department filed suits to secure full voting rights in four counties in Mississippi, another in Alabama, another in Louisiana. It filed suits against segregation in federally-supported airline terminals in Montgomery and New Orleans and supported an NAACP suit involving the Tallahassee, Fla., airport.

And officials in Washington finally sent surplus food to the beseiged and boycotted Negro voters of Fayette and Haywood Counties, Tenn. This did much to relieve the physical suffering there, and it was also a great morale-booster. Negroes became convinced that the Federal Government was behind them, and the number of Negro voters climbed. Voter rolls were increasing too in Tuskegee, Ala., in Atlanta, Ga., in many other places.

Meantime, with school desegregation scheduled in several new spots this fall, integrationists were working everywhere to make it more than "token integration."

The summer scoreboard: a few battles won, many new ones begun, but one fact firmly established: the Southern integration movement was too deeply rooted in every part of the South to be stopped by anything — not even the Dixie summer heat.

Still Closed

The saddest news of the summer in the South was the fact that Prince Edward County, Va., would probably be without public schools for the third straight year. A Federal judge hearing an NAACP suit seeking to open the schools indicated that the issue would have to go to the state courts of Virginia.

The Southern PATRIOT

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An Ex-Moderate Speaks

No More 'Middle Ground'

By John David Maguire

(Two of the most important results of the Freedom Ride movement have been the breaking of the myth of moderation and the involvement of people from the North in the Southern struggle. Nowhere have these matters been discussed with more insight than by John David Maguire in an article in Christianity & Crisis, which is excerpted here. Mr. Maguire, who teaches at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., was arrested in his native city of Montgomery, Ala., on one of the early rides.)

"Like most men, I resent the destruction of the myths by which I have lived. By birth from Montgomery, by temperament moderate, I had convinced myself —until the Freedom Rides—that the complexities of Southern segregation patterns . . . signalled a "Stay Out" to those of us now living in the also discriminatory North. . . .

The Freedom Rides, however, began to break that myth . . . Since I have to return south often to visit relatives, since I have Negro friends, colleagues and students, since I have to live on a professor's salary, I felt half-jokingly when the rides commenced that I had a stake in their success.

A few days later, all smiles had vanished. For, seeing violence in my birthplace and mobs momentarily ruling in my boyhood home, I was confronted by the fact that discrimination, and the hysteria in which it is grounded, was no longer simply an isolated local problem. Middletown, Conn., was suddenly so close to Montgomery.

In that moment, my version of the myth of stay-at-home moderation shattered. I saw that we moderates, by our failure to forge an effective instrument for the instantaneous registration of political pressure in crises, had no way for stemming the tide of the mob, nor restraining exasperated extremist governors. . . .

The conversion of Time into an agent, the metaphysical fallacy

(Continued on Page 2)

John David Maguire

Freedom Ride Round-Up

The great drama of the summer was acted out in the Mississippi jails.

The press reports became routine statistics—four more Freedom riders arrested in Jackson, six more moved to the state prison. The battleground widened to include the courts where suits challenged the arrests, and to Washington, where the Interstate Commerce Commission scheduled hearings for mid-August to determine whether to issue the order that could end segregation in transportation for once and for all.

But the human beings making it all possible were in Mississippi. The Student Nonviolent Movement in Nashville, Tenn.—where most of the riders came for training in nonviolence on their way to Mississippi and where many of them returned on their way home—provided this round-up of the statistics and their meaning:

By August, 296 persons had been arrested in Jackson—in bus and train stations and at the airport. As riders kept coming, the sentences increased—until they involved six months in jail if fines were not paid.

The prisoners stayed in the city jail until trial, then went to the county jail. It became overcrowded; prisoners were moved to the state prison at Parchman, Miss.

Most of those arrested stayed in custody about 40 days. This is the limit of time within which appeals can be filed.

Of the people arrested, about half were students and about half could be classified as adults. Over half were white.

The weakness of the movement perhaps: it was not predominantly Southern-based. About three-fourths of the riders came from outside the South, from the North or the West.

However, there were two sides to this coin. Many people saw great value in the fact that people from outside the South had finally found a way in which they too could directly challenge Southern segregation. There was growing recognition of the Southern evil as a national responsibility. (See comments by John

(Continued on Page 3)

Notes From Prison

By PAULINE KNIGHT

(As Told to The Southern Patriot)

(All too often a jail reduces the humanity of its prisoners. Not the least of the achievements of the Freedom Riders is the fact that in jail they have risen to new heights of humanity. This first-hand account of a rider, a Nashville student, throws light on why.)

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—I have been a participant in nonviolent actions since February 13, 1960. I went to Jackson, Miss., on May 27 and spent 41 days in jail.

For 27 days I was in the Hinds County Jail. Conditions there were very bad. Many of us had to sleep on thin cotton mattresses on the floor. There were 20 of us in a cell the size of a small room. It was impossible to walk without stepping on someone, so we were forced to crawl around.

The food was mostly starchy grits that we couldn't eat, bloated biscuits, beans, thick cornbread. We often found glass, bugs and rocks in the food.

Later we were transported at night to the state prison at Parchman and I spent the last 14 days of my imprisonment there. The food was a little better but not much, and we were placed in maximum security, 13 steps from Death Row.

The cell block was nasty—we had to walk through dead bugs at least one-half inch thick when we came in and they had taken our shoes so we were barefoot. After a few days of complaints, we did get the floor swept and mopped.

Here there were three of us in a cell about 6 x 9 feet. We were close enough to the other cells to talk to our fellow Freedom Riders, however.

One night one of our number, a Greek scholar from New York, was telling us a Greek

(Continued on Page 4)

Montgomery After the Mob

(By Staff Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—This town in mid-July, 1961, had a peaceful appearance.

Soothing music came from loud-speakers placed by city fathers on the street corners in the business district. It was hard to realize that this had been the scene of bloody riots when Freedon Riders arrived in May.

Against this backdrop of deceptive quiet, a Southern ritual was acted out in an almost empty courtroom in the Montgomery County courthouse.

It was the trial of Fred and Anna Gach, Montgomery white couple who begged police to stop the bloody beating of a Freedom Rider and for their pains were jailed on charges of disorderly conduct and refusing to obey officers' orders to go home. (See June *Patriot*.)

The Montgomery County courthouse is new and modern, decorated in cool pastels, its segregated men's rooms both equally green and its segregated women's rooms equally pink. Inside the courtroom, the pattern of Southern justice seemed distressingly old.

The mob on that May day at the Greyhound bus station had turned threateningly on the Gaches after it saw them intercede in behalf of two beaten Negroes. The case of the prosecution was simple; the prosecutor said, "The police were getting the mob under control, and the only place there was any disturbance was where the Gaches were."

It's an age-old custom, hardly original with the South, to blame the victim for the crime.

The Gaches told their story simply—how they happened to be near the bus station and had to protest what they saw. Mr. Gach spoke quietly, almost painfully as he described the scene, as if he couldn't bear to recall what he had seen. Mrs. Gach, a native Alabamian, spoke with controlled but forceful indignation.

Clifford J. Durr, Montgomery lawyer who represented the Gaches, gave a simple and eloquent defense. He told the jury the story of the Good

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The Southern Patriot

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News In Brief

In Louiville, Ky., about 100 white citizens joined 500 Negroes in a march to City Hall to urge passage of an ordinance against discrimination in places of public accommodation. The Greater Louisville Labor Council (AFL-CIO) went on record in favor of the proposed ordinance.

* * *

Near Columbia, S.C., 20 Negroes sought entry to a state park. The park then closed. Subsequently, a suit was filed to integrate all 23 parks and recreation areas supported by the state.

* * *

In Greenville, Miss., Negro pickets protested discriminatory hiring practices by variety stores. Also in Mississippi, the State Supreme Court overturned the contempt-of-court conviction of Medgar Evers, NAACP leader who was convicted for criticizing the burglary conviction of another Negro.

* * *

In Richmond, Va., Norfolk Attorney E. A. Dawley, Jr., conducted the first successful "sleep-in." After arranging by telephone for a room at the John Marshall Hotel, he got to the hotel and was told there was no vacancy. So he found a sofa in the lobby and proceeded to go to sleep. They gave him not only a room, but a suite.

* * *

In Durham, N.C., Duke University has accepted three Negroes for admission to graduate school this fall—the first to enroll there.

* * *

The state of Missouri has enacted a Fair Employment Practices law. Passage of the law by the legislature this year climaxes 15 years of effort by civil rights forces.

* * *

In Atlanta, the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity announced plans for a Prayer Pilgrimage in September from New Orleans to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Detroit. Those who take the journey will be clergymen; they will travel by chartered bus and use facilities without regard to race along the way. They plan to stop at Episcopal schools and instittuions, offering prayers of thanks for those which do not practice discrimination and prayers for enlightenment of those who do.

* * *

In Monroe, N. C., there have been new outbreaks of violence, as Negroes picket in protest against the all-white policy of the local swimming pool. Robert Williams, Negro leader in Monroe, reports pickets have been attacked, Negroes have been beaten, and he himself has twice been forced off the road in his car.

Savannah Moves

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Downtown lunch counters here agreed in July to open to Negroes, after a year-long boycott and a number of student sit-in demonstrations.

The agreement was negotiated by a committee of prominent citizens, including Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders. Episcopal Bishop Albert R. Stuart was spokesman for the committee.

The lunch counter agreement followed soon after integration of Savannah's municipal golf course, library and buses.

SCEF SECRETARY James L. Hupp, has been widely honored in West Virginia as he retires from active service at West Virginia Wesleyan College, where he has served as chairman of the Department of Education and the Division of Applied Arts and Sciences. Newspaper articles noted his nationally significant contributions to the cause of integration. He has now been named director of the West Virginia Department of Archives and History, with offices in Charleston.

Another Victory

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — This city's largest department store, the last hold-out against city-wide integration of department and variety store lunch counters, changed its policy this summer. This made 117 stores that have integrated since the NAACP Youth Council began its drive with negotiation in May, 1957, and sit-ins in August, 1958. The effort started with 14 young people and before the final victory involved 3,000.

Reading Notes

Weapons in the Witch Hunt

Hate Groups and the Un-American Activities Committee, by David Wesley, Published by Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, 421 Seventh Ave., New York 1, N.Y., 25¢, reduced prices for quantity orders.

The Un-American Activities Committee and its supporters are past-masters at name-calling. Those who oppose the Committee should be careful not to indulge in the same tactics.

The words "fascist" and "hate-mongerer" can be tossed about loosely and with as little meaning as the word "communist" hurled at all liberals.

But this little 16-page pamphlet definitely does not fall in that category. It does not scream; it is a sober analysis of carefully-documented facts.

And the chief fact that it documents is that the House Committee on Un-American Activities, from its inception over 20 years ago right up to the present day, has had close working relationships with American racists, Nazis and fascists and their organizations.

The author David Wesley, a distinguished journalist, goes even further and advances the thesis that the House Committee is itself a "hate group." He makes a good case. Hate groups, by his description, "do not debate . . . they conduct political warfare . . . . are indeed exclusively anti. . . ."

No one who believes in civil liberties can deny that a racist or a fascist has in America the right to express his ideas just like anyone else. That is freedom of speech, and it belongs to every citizen.

But when a committee of Congress, with the power to suppress—as the Un-American Activities Committee has suppressed—the voices of its opponents, supports such people and organizations and peddles their ideas as official "Americanism," that is something else again.

The very existence of hate groups is a sign of sickness in our society. The fact that so many people have accepted the Un-American Activities Committee as a truly patriotic institution may indicate how deep our sickness goes—or maybe it just indicates that many people have been uninformed.

This little pamphlet will help to inform and it will strengthen the national movement back to health, which is signified by the growing public opposition to the House Committee.

Conrad, Denver Post

"... Gentlemen, We'll Be Lucky to Get This Bill Out of Committee ..."

Depth Study

Another powerful weapon against the Un-American Activities Committee is a new book entitled The Un-Americans. Written by Attorney Frank Donner and published in 60¢ paperback by Ballantine Books, 101 Fifth Ave., New York City, it is a depth study of the Committee's activities and the wreckage it has left behind it. The book will be reviewed in a later issue of the Patriot.

Protest in Louisville

(By Staff Correspondent)

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Protests by Louisville integrationists have won a partial victory for a man whose employment was terminated because of his wife's activities in anti-segregation demonstrations.

The man is David F. Bennett, 30, formerly office manager for the Louisville branch of Minneapolis Honeywell Regulator Company. Bennett said company officials asked him to resign because (1) his wife's activities were adversely affecting sales and customers and (2) his own expressions of opinion on segregation were hurting "office morale."

Mrs. Bennett has been an active member of Louisville CORE. Bennett himself is not a member and has taken part in no demonstrations. He said any expressions of opinion by him were after working hours and "discreetly stated."

When news of the episode got around, Louisville liberals began to contact the company. About one-fourth of Minneapolis Honeywell's business is in government contracts, and Bennett stated publicly that he planned to file a complaint with the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity.

In a few weeks, the company notified him he had been reinstated—but his new job will be in Chicago, not in Louisville.

Suddenly No Middle Ground

(Continued from Page 1)

on which my version of moderation was founded, became transparent. I had told myself that Time would effect change, that Time would reconcile, that Time would tell.

But I saw that Time is simply a neutral receptacle within which men and movements shape society, its defining characteristic being its waiting for no one. Had we moderates been making the most of our moments in Time?

Hoping to avoid conflict, to avoid sides-taking, I had sought, in the name of Christian mediation, to stand in the gap between the much discussed extremes. But it became clear that, in this situation, there is little or no middle ground. One is either for law or against it.

Hand-wringing deplorings of violence are no substitute for the open support of law. Violence can in large measure be averted when the body politic does not siphon off its energies in these diversionary gestures.

Indeed, the failure of us moderates to identify openly and concretely with the seekers and upholders of law was silently, but no less really, to cast votes against it. For me there was suddenly no middle ground. . . .

I was convinced that this trip would narrow the gap between law and practice, perhaps by symbolizing that the safest profession in the country—the academic—must on occasion act as well as talk. . . .

Morally, I had to make this journey. Segregation, withholding as it does recognition of the humanity of fellow creatures, is immoral. To be human means to have certain rights of man, and the Christian must be engaged until every man enjoys them. . . .

Our consciences, kinsmen and colleagues all ask us. "Has anything come of all this?" . . . My answer is a deeply convinced, "Yes, four central consequences have followed."

First, although the rides were not initiated by Martin Luther King, the riders, the moment they met violence, called on King to lead the proceedings . . . . As long as he leads, the country is spared that frightening prospect forewarned by Paton's Msimangu, "I have one great fear in my heart, that one day when the whites finally turn to loving, they will find we are turned to hating."

Second, from the pressure on the Justice Department during the rides and from the litigation following the rides, there will emerge a clear-cut statement once and for all forbidding segregation in public terminals. . . .

Third, the morale of the Negro community has been boosted and the forces for nonviolent pressure have become more mobilized than ever. . . .

Finally, "the agony of the South" has at last been seen to be national in scope and everywhere to include Negroes. When we moderates spoke of "Southerner" we too long meant "Southern white." But no longer can the Negro's role in the "national agony" be overlooked. . . .

For us who went on the Freedom Rides there has resulted an identification and empathy with Negroes that we never knew before, and the realization that just such a sense of identification by our national leaders will be necessary if they are to understand this group on the move, and sense the heart of this world-wide social revolution. . . .

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Florida Integrationists Active

By LORRAINE CALHOUN

(The tempo of the summer, 1961, in the South is reflected in events in Florida, one of several states where "freedom riding" and other anti-segregation protests became a spontaneous and localized drive, involving the individual action and private conscience of many citizens. This report is excerpted from a recent Florida Information Exchange bulletin. The bulletin is edited by Mrs. Calhoun, who participated in an NAACP fact-finding trip.)

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Headlining our Florida newspapers last month were the adventures of the CORE Freedom Riders and our own NAACP Fact-Finders in testing bus and airport facilities.

Mrs. Calhoun

We and/or the CORE riders used previously - white lunch counters and other facilities in the Greyhound stations at Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Tallahassee, Gainesville, Ocala, Tampa and and St. Petersburg. . .

At Tallahasee, we had an opportunity to test the Trailways station too . . . The menu featured such bargains as soup for 65¢, cheeseburgers for 85¢ and ice cream for 50¢. The mentality behind such pricing is a curious one. How could anyone think that people who would literally risk their lives to integrate the bus stations would be bothered by having to pay an extra quarter for a sandwich? . . .

Ten CORE riders were refused service at the Tallahassee airport restaurant and were also arrested and convicted of unlawful assembly . . . Miss Priscilla Stephens, one of those who welcomed the riders, was arrested with them and drew the stiffest sentence. . . .In addition to a 60-day sentence, she received a 35-day mandatory jail term.

The NAACP quickly filed suit with the Federal District Court to enjoin Tallahassee city officials and the airport restaurant. . . .

Riders met with many expressions of support and fellowship, as well as of hostility. Daytona Negroes set their alarm clocks early to see our NAACP group off on a 5 a.m. bus. Several white passengers talked cordially with us along the way; and in two stations white women initiated friendly conversations with our Negro women, as they entered the washroom.

At Tallahassee we met many Negro supporters who compensated for the crowd of angry whites. And at Gainesville, we were met by white well-wishers, representing the Students for Democratic Action from the University of Florida. CORE riders had similar experiences. At St. Petersburg, they were met by an integrated group. . . .

Here in Daytona, Negroes are using the bus station restaurant without any kind of ticket. Individual riders have reported being served in the Pensacola bus station, and the Jacksonville railway station . . .

Pensacola sit-in demonstrators are having a rough time. A 15-year-old Negro was sprayed with insecticide. A 16-year-old girl was burned with a cigarette . . .

In Orlando, downtown dime stores and Walgreen stores have been desegregated. . . . The parks have been desegregated except for swimming facilities.

In Deland, the A&P and Food Fair Stores, nudged by Florida Information Exchange members, have removed their signs over drinking fountains.

Pinellas County (St. Petersburg) commissioners voted to abolish all segregation signs in public facilities under county control. The action was initiated by a letter from the chairman of the committee on Christian Life and work of the United Churches of Greater St. Petersburg. . . .

In the Daytona area we have been testing restaurants — with some success. . . . We also got up a theatre party and went to the Daytona Beach Little Theatre. There were no reserved seats. We sat where we pleased. . . .

From Now On

"Freedom riding must now be undertaken continually, as a personal responsibility, whenever we travel. Try to use intergrated facilities even for intrastate trips. . . ."

—Florida Information Exchange Bulletin

—Photo by Beasley

MUCH ARRESTED Florida freedom fighter, Priscilla Stephens, was arrested again when she welcomed Freedom Riders to Tallahassee and drew longest jail sentence of them all. She's pictured here in picket line last spring.

Tennessee 'Picnic-Ins'

(By Staff Correspondent)

OAK RIDGE, Tenn.—One of the little publicized aspects of the 1961 summer ferment in the South was a campaign to open all state parks of Tennessee to Negroes.

This campaign was initiated quietly, without fanfare, by the Committee on Open Parks (Co-Op), an integrated group led by several local human relations leaders, including City Councilman Washington Butler, Jr.

It started with a "picnic-in" at Big Ridge State Park on Memorial Day. Four Oak Ridge Negroes participated, and a number of sympathetic whites went in separate groups as observers.

The group had notified Gov. Buford Ellington in advance of their plans. A friendly ranger at first told them regretfully they must leave but, after apparently checking with superiors, decided not to insist that they go.

The committee later wired the Governor asking for a statement affirming that all parks were open and saying that if it did not come by a certain date they would assume that he had taken affirmative action.

No answer came, so the committee notified human relations groups throughout the state that it could be assumed the parks were open.

The result was July 4 picnics in at least four state parks and a number of other outings by Negroes during the summer, apparently unrelated to any organized effort.

However, no Negroes were admitted to swimming facilities and Co-op was continuing its efforts.

Soldiers' Protest

(By Special Correspondent)

FT. HOOD, Tex.—Negro soldiers at Ft. Hood are trying to do something about the Jim Crow that confronts soldiers the minute they leave military posts in many parts of the South.

It started with a sit-in in July, 1960, at Craigs lunch counter in nearby Killeen, Tex., by Pfc. Robert B. Curtis of St. Louis and two other soldiers. Killeen is a small, much-segregated town in central Texas.

Curtis and his friends were arrested by MPs and threatened with court martial. But in April, 1961, they tried again—another sit-in at the same place. Again MPs arrested them.

United Press International in Austin heard about this one and called Ft. Hood. The provost marshal's office denied that anything had happened.

But apparently wires to Washington buzzed. Drew Pearson, whose syndicated column is one of the few places the incidents have been publicized, found in Washington that the Army had issued an order to the Ft. Hood commanding officer and other commanders that MPs not be used "on behalf of local authorities to support enforcement of segregation."

This was a clear-cut victory, not only for the Ft. Hood soldiers but for those all over the South.

However, other forms of harassment continue to plague Pfc. Curtis and his friends. When they sat in again in June, the wife of a white civilian accompanied them. Her husband worked for the Red Cross on the post; within 24 hours he was told by the commanding general that he was no longer welcome. The Red Cross relocated him.

During a July demonstration, a picket sign carried by Curtis was torn by one of a hostile crowd. Curtis himself was charged with assault. Although this charge was later dropped for lack of evidence, a white sympathizer who had joined the demonstration was detained by police three hours without charge — and shortly thereafter fined $200 on minor traffic charges usually carrying a $5 fine.

Despite the harassment, the Ft. Hood soldiers plan to continue their drive. They are also working to secure more and better housing for Negro soldiers. In a statement of purpose, they said:

"We deplore the fact that a Negro who is stationed in the South must relinquish his right to be treated with dignity and respect in order to serve his country. . . . Inasmuch as our petitions for redress of these grievances to our representatives in Congress and the Department of the Army have not been taken seriously, we feel the necessity of resorting to nonviolent direct action. . . .

"We hope that other Negro soldiers, who are stationed in the South, will follow our example and protest against the unequal conditions which we must involuntarily endure . . . ."

Nashville Action

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The student movement here is carrying on a campaign to win fair hiring practices at local stores. In August, a mob of teen-age white boys attacked students picketing H. G. Hills super market. They threw eggs and tomatoes and some of the pickets were beaten. Some picket signs were torn to shreds. Police arrested both attackers and pickets.

Nashville's nonviolent student movement has already won integration victories at the lunch counters and at downtown theaters.

Military Orders

Despite an order from the Army in Washington that MPs not be used to enforce segregation (see accompanying story), orders have recently been issued by at least two commanding generals that soldiers must not take part in sit-ins. The orders were issued by Maj. Gen. H. D. Ives, commanding general at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina, and by Gen. Paul Adams at Ft. McPherson, Ga.

Ride Round-Up: Jackson Also Organizes

(Continued from Page 1)

David Maguire in this issue.)

Also, as noted elsewhere in this issue, many Southerners were choosing to make their witness in their own home communities.

The greatest strength of the movement: it resulted in the growth of a nonviolent direct-action organization within the Jackson Negro community itself.

There had already been protests in Jackson—the library read-in by Tougaloo College students last spring (see May Patriot). After the Freedom Rides started, the Nashville Student Movement sent five representatives to Jackson to help acquaint the young people there with nonviolent methods.

Two of them, James Bevel and Bernard Lafayette, were arrested and drew jail sentences (now on appeal) for their efforts; Mississippi officials charged them with "contributing to the delinquency" of minors.

But by that time, 41 Negro students in Jackson had participated in anti-segregation protests and had paid the price of jail terms. The Jackson Nonviolent Movement is now an organization, and it's growing.

As Leo Lilliard, vice-chairman of the Nashville Student Movement, said: "This is the most lasting result and the ultimate goal. If the nation sent 2,000 Freedom Riders to Mississippi and opened every terminal but the citizens of Jackson were not convinced that they must be involved, it would all be in vain."

Among the people who came from the outside, almost every walk of life was represented. As Lilliard put it, "they were people who had left their jobs, housewives who had left their husbands, husbands who had left their families." No one occupation could be said to be predominant; there were professional and non-professional people.

Virtually none could be classified as "adventurers." They came with a sense of dedication. About half had participated in some form of anti-segregation protest back home; the others had just read in the paper about the rides and were "compelled by conscience" to take action.

Most left the jails more dedicated than ever to integration and nonviolence. For them, life would never be quite the same again. For the nation and for Mississippi, it wouldn't either. Segregation still stood in Jackson, but the myth that "it can't happen in Mississippi" had been broken.

The nation knew something had to be done, and in the integration movement there was a new feeling of strength. All direct action groups—CORE, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Nashville group — were cooperating, and the NAACP was giving legal support.

THE FIRST HUSBAND AND WIFE team to be jailed on a Freedom Ride in Jackson, Miss., were the Rev. and Mrs. Wyatt Tee Walker. Mr. Walker is executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They have four children. They are shown here preparing a memorandum to the U. S. Attorney General, detailing experiences of their journey.